

STATISTICS ON INDEPENDENT  
COUNSEL INVESTIGATIONS

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, I have had it right up to my eyeballs with the rhetoric from the Democrats and the White House. Now Vice President GORE has the gall to go to my state, Florida, and slam Republicans for too many investigations.

Mr. Speaker, this is like Clyde saying to Bonnie, "I can't believe the law continues to pursue us."

He does this as he is under investigation by his Attorney General. Then the Vice President has the audacity to say that Republicans are dragging their feet on investigations.

Do they think the American people and the Congress are fools? When over 100 witnesses have either fled the country or taken the 5th Amendment? The fact is that more independent counsels have been appointed by their Democrat-appointed Attorney General for this administration, their administration, than all the previous in the history of the United States.

The fact is the Independent Counsel law expired in 1992 under President Bush. The fact is President Clinton signed into law and 243 Democrats, all but two, voted to pass the Independent Counsel Law, and put these investigations in place only after their Attorney General finds substantial and credible evidence of wrongdoing. Those are the facts.

PASS H.R. 3081, THE HATE CRIMES  
PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, history has taught us that unchecked ignorance, intolerance and hatred always yields violence. The fact that we have not yet learned this lesson was made strikingly clear this week with the brutal beating and murder of Matthew Shepard, a Wyoming college student. His killers chose Matthew only because he was gay.

Mr. Speaker, incidences of violent crime are in fact decreasing in the United States, yet FBI statistics show that this is not so for crimes based on sexual orientation.

The time has come to recognize these heinous acts for what they are. They are hate crimes. The time has come to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We should do it today by unanimous consent.

It is tragic that yet another life has been lost to ignorance and intolerance. How many more will be lost by our silence?

TRUSTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES  
TO EDUCATE CHILDREN

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, like all things in public life, in the covenant that exists between the people and their elected officials, the overriding issue is trust and credibility.

Now, we have heard for the last few days an attempt by the other side to divert attention away from the fact that we were going to deliver much-needed tax relief for the American people, phasing out the marriage penalty tax, helping small business owners with health insurance deductibility, raising it to 100 percent, and, above all, helping farmers across our country.

Now we hear that education is the issue. Of course it is the issue. We all want to see education improve. But every attempt we have to take the bureaucracy out of Washington and bring it back home to Staten Island, Brooklyn, across the country, we are opposed.

We passed education savings accounts to give parents more flexibility to do what is right for their children, not the Washington bureaucrats. Threatened by the President, vetoed by the President.

Opportunity scholarships for the poorest students in the Washington, D.C. school system passed this House and Senate, again giving power back to parents locally. Vetoed by the President.

Let us end the rhetoric. We all want to improve education. The question is how do we do it. We say give it back to the people, back to the parents, back to the teachers.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FED-  
ERAL GOVERNMENT ON EDU-  
CATION

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the negotiations are now concentrated on education as the issue this week before we go back to our districts.

Let me make two points. Hopefully we will get some progress on education in these final days of the budget negotiations. I fear it will be too little to be of great help to our districts back home.

I recently made a tour of one of my schools in my district, and I spend a lot of time visiting schools. The superintendent and principal took me around to show me how they had parceled together these buildings, put these buildings together, different ages, poor wiring systems, inadequate for the technology of the day; science labs with inadequate utilities, gyms with inadequate air conditioning, the

problems that they have in trying to keep up in a rural district with the needs for school construction and school renovation.

These are real problems, whether you are in an urban area, a rural district or a suburban area. Our school districts want help modernizing their buildings and building new classrooms. They know they can do it in partnership with the Federal Government, with them maintaining local control. They know we are not about taking away their local control.

LETTING PARENTS AND LOCAL  
SCHOOL AUTHORITIES DETER-  
MINE EDUCATION NEEDS

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, they are not all liberals, but the Democrats have a position on education that I think needs to be addressed. That is, they keep asking the question, do Democrats represent the best for education, or do Republicans represent the best for education?

What is wrong with this particular position is that it leaves out the parents and the local school authorities. This is not a political issue. It is not a question of which party can gain in an election by blaming the other person or taking credit for their particular position. What it is is a difference in between what the Democrats want to do for education and what the local school boards and the parents can do for education.

We as conservatives want to step out of the way and point to the local school districts and to the parents and say it is not a political issue, it is not whether the Democrat or Republicans are doing the most, it is how we are taking care of our children.

MAKING EDUCATION IMPROVE-  
MENT A ONE-MONTH-A-YEAR  
PRIORITY

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in October of every election year the Republican leadership says they support public education. The other 11 months they try to dismantle the Department of Education, they try to cut Head Start and school lunches, they try to weaken the student loan program.

Now, for the month before the election, Republicans reluctantly say they want to better fund public education. But the issue is this: Should we adopt the Republican plan, which is a blank check to school administrators, which will mean more money in bureaucracy, more money in central offices, more money wasted in school districts, or do we adopt the democratic plan to put 100,000 teachers in the classroom?